



*Simon Estes*



*Mason Williams*

# 35 Years of Doing It Right!



*Freda Payne*



*Scherrie Payne*

In 1966, Colonel Arnald D. Gabriel was the commander and conductor of The United States Air Force Band. He had a definite vision for the Band; he wanted to reach out to the Washington, D.C. community. As a public relations tool, he initiated a concert series that would feature local radio and television personalities, as well as very talented high school musicians. The idea grew in popularity and was expanded to include noted musicians and actors (Doc Severinsen, William Conrad, Peter Graves, JoAnne Worley and Marilyn McCoo), guest conductors (Aaron Copland, Karel Husa, Leroy Anderson, Morton Gould and Henry Mancini), and performing groups (The Statler Brothers, The Lettermen, the Gatlin Brothers, Manhattan Transfer and the Dave Brubeck Quartet) from throughout the country.

It was a public image idea; therefore, it fell under the realm of public affairs officer CMSgt (ret) Harry Gleeson. He was the first coordinator of the series. Harry handled the myriad details of coordination of the performers. We are truly fortunate that he set such a marvelous tone for the rest of us to follow. In fact, in my opinion, Harry is the single most knowledgeable individual on the history of The United States Air Force Band. Even now, we still call upon him when we are in need of clarification on anything of questionable historical significance.

All of the past coordinators of the Series have made significant contributions to the success of the series; each has left an individual imprint upon which the next coordinator has built. Each of us has looked at the methods of our predecessors, incorporated them, cultivated them, and then moved to the next level. It is looking at our history, preserving the good and refining what can be better, that then allows success for a brighter future.

The job of coordinating the series is a unique and challenging experience. The coordinators over this 35-year period include